CHAPTER 2.5.14.

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

Article 2.5.14.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for African horse sickness virus (AHSV) shall be 40 days for domestic horses. Although critical information is lacking for some species, this Chapter applies to all equidae.

All countries or *zones* neighbouring, or considered at risk from, a country or *zone* not having free status should determine their AHSV status from an ongoing surveillance programme. Throughout the Chapter surveillance is in all cases understood as being conducted as described in Appendix 3.8.X.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 2.5.14.2.

AHSV free country or *zone*

1. A country or *zone* may be considered free from AHSV when African horse sickness (AHS) is notifiable in the whole country, systematic vaccination is prohibited, importation of equidae, their semen, oocytes or embryos, and *pathological material* and biological products from these species are carried out in accordance with this chapter, and either:

    a) *historical freedom* as described in Appendix 3.8.1. has demonstrated no evidence of AHSV in the country or *zone*; or

    b) the country or *zone* has not reported any case of AHS for at least 2 years and is not adjacent to a country or *zone* not having a free status; or

    c) a surveillance programme has demonstrated no evidence of AHSV in the country or *zone* for at least 12 months ; or

    d) the country or *zone* has not reported any case of AHS and a surveillance programme has demonstrated no evidence of *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors in the country or *zone*.

2. An AHSV free country or *zone* will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive equidae, their semen, oocytes or embryos from infected countries or *zones*, provided these imports are carried out in accordance with this

Chapter.

Article 2.5.14.3.

AHSV seasonally free zone

1. An AHSV seasonally free *zone* is a part of an infected country or *zone* for which for part of a year, ongoing surveillance and *monitoring* demonstrate no evidence of AHSV transmission and of the presence of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors.

2. For the application of Articles 2.5.14.6., 2.5.14.8. and 2.5.14.9., the seasonally free period is:

    a) taken to commence the day following the last evidence of AHSV transmission and of the cessation of activity of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors as demonstrated by an ongoing surveillance programme, and

    b) taken to conclude either:

        i) at least 28 days before the earliest date that historical data show AHSV activity has recommenced; or

        ii) immediately when current climatic data or data from a surveillance and monitoring programme indicate an earlier resurgence of activity of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors.

3. An AHSV seasonally free *zone* will not lose its free status through the importation of vaccinated or seropositive equidae, their semen, oocytes or embryos from infected countries or *zones,* provided these imports are carried out in accordance with this chapter.

Article 2.5.14.4.

AHSV infected country or zone

An AHSV infected country or *zone* is a clearly defined area where the conditions of Article 2.5.14.2. or Article 2.5.14.3. do not apply.

Article 2.5.14.5.

When importing from AHSV free countries not neighbouring or considered at risk from an AHSV infected country or *zone*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

<u>for equidae</u>

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

3. were kept in an AHSV free country since birth or for at least 40 days prior to shipment;

4. either:

    a) did not transit through an infected country or *zone*; or

    b) were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors at all times when transiting through an infected country or *zone*.

Article 2.5.14.6.

When importing from AHSV free countries, free *zones*, or seasonally free zones during the seasonally free period, neighbouring or considered at risk from, an AHSV infected country or *zone*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

<u>for equidae</u>

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical signs of AHS on the day of shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

3. were kept in an AHSV free country, free *zone* or seasonally free zone during the seasonally free period since birth or for at least 40 days prior to shipment;

4. were held in quarantine and protected at all times from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors; and

    a) a serological test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibodies to the AHSV group, was carried out with a negative result on a blood sample collected at least 28 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

    b) serological tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect serotype specific antibodies to the AHSV serotypes known to occur within the region were carried out with no significant increase in antibody titre on blood samples collected on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 21 days, the first sample being collected at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

    c) agent identification tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* were carried out with

negative results on blood samples collected on two occasions with an interval of not less than 14 days between collection, the first sample being collected at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*;

5. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors during transportation to and at the *place of shipment*.

Article 2.5.14.7.

When importing from an AHSV infected country or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for equidae

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of shipment;

2. have not been vaccinated against AHS within the last 40 days;

3. were held continuously during the quarantine period in a vector proof *quarantine station* and protected at all times from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors; and

    a) a serological test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibodies to the AHSV group, was carried out with negative result on a blood sample collected at least 28 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

    b) serological tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect serotype specific antibodies to the AHSV serotypes known to occur within the region were carried out with no significant increase in antibody titre on blood samples collected on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 21 days, the first sample being collected at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*; or

    c) agent identification tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* were carried out with negative results on blood samples collected on two occasions with an interval of not less than 14 days between collection, the first sample being collected at least 7 days after introduction into the *quarantine station*;

4. were protected from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors during transportation to and at the *place of shipment*.

Article 2.5.14.8.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require:

for equid semen

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

2. had not been vaccinated against AHS within 40 days prior to the day of collection;

3. were either:

    a) kept in an AHSV free country or *zone* for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during collection of the semen, or

    b) kept in a AHSV free vector-proof *artificial insemination centre* throughout the collection period, and subjected to, either:

        i) a serological test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibody to the AHSV group, carried out with negative result on a blood sample collected at least 28 days and not more than 90 days after the last collection of semen; or

        ii) agent identification tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* carried out with negative results on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every seven days, during semen collection for this consignment.

Article 2.5.14.9.

Veterinary Administrations of *importing countries* should require:

<u>for *in vivo* derived equid embryos/oocytes</u>

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the donor animals:

    a) showed no clinical sign of AHS on the day of collection of the semen and for the following 40 days;

    b) had not been vaccinated against AHS within 40 days prior to the day of collection;

    c) were either

        i) kept in an AHSV free country or *zone* for at least 40 days before commencement of, and during collection of the embryos/oocytes, or

        ii) kept in a AHSV free vector-proof collection centre throughout the collection period, and subjected to, either

- a serological test according to the *Terrestrial Manual* to detect antibody to the AHSV group carried out with negative result on a blood sample collected at least 28 days and not more than 90 days after the last collection of embryos/oocytes; or
- agent identification tests according to the *Terrestrial Manual* carried out with negative results on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every seven days during embryos/oocytes collection for this consignment;

2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.1;
3. semen used to fertilize the oocytes, complies at least with the requirements in Article 2.5.14.8.

Article 2.5.14.10.

Protecting animals from *Culicoides* attack

When transporting equines through AHSV infected countries or *zones*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require strategies to protect animals from attack from *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors during transport, taking into account the local ecology of the vector.

Potential risk management strategies include a combination of:

1. treating animals with chemical repellents prior to and during transportation, in insecticide treated and sanitized *vehicles*;
2. *loading*, transporting and *unloading* animals at times of low vector activity (i.e. bright sunshine and low temperature);
3. ensuring *vehicles* do not stop en route during dawn or dusk, or overnight, unless the animals are held behind insect proof netting;
4. darkening the interior of the *vehicle*, for example by covering the roof and/or sides of vehicles with shadecloth;
5. monitoring for vectors at common stopping and offloading points to gain information on seasonal variations;
6. using historical, ongoing and/or AHS modelling information to identify low risk ports and transport routes.